

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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July-August, 1953

## PORLAND IN RETROSPECT

The International Convention of Disciples of Christ held in Portland, Oregon, July 5-9 is now history. While it is perhaps too early to evaluate its accomplishments and significance some factors stand out as worthy of comment.

### Attendance

In the first place, it had the largest registration in the history of our brotherhood except for the Centennial Convention in 1909. While registration is not necessarily reflect accurately actual attendance, due to the fact that strenuous campaigns for registration are carried on in the churches of convention area, the attendance was unusually good. Despite the exodus of some of the delegates on Wednesday and Thursday, the closing session on Thursday night found the auditorium crowded. The Wednesday afternoon period was a welcome let-down in days of strenuous activity.

### Program

The program was of a high order. Scripture messages given at the opening of each session by various speakers showed unusual preparation and demonstrated how the Bible should be read to make its message intelligible to the hearer. The Bible lectures given by Bishop Gerald Kennedy of the Los Angeles Area of the Methodist Church were of a high order and drew a large attendance each day.

The huge auditorium was crowded to the roof on Tuesday night to hear Rosa Page Welch on "I Went with Christ Around the World," despite the fact that 400 had heard her at a Disciples Peace Fellowship after-session the preceding night. The address of Bishop Stephen Neill, of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland, on "Christ Calls to Mission and Ministry" was another high point. For many of the delegates, however, the communion service on Sunday evening, which was held in two sections to accommodate the crowds, and the commissioning of the missionaries at the closing session on Thursday evening, were the crowning events of the convention.

### Business Sessions

The convention business sessions were carried on with dispatch and, with one exception, a minimum of disagreement. The exception arose over adoption of the Recommendation Committee's recommendations on Resolutions 45 and 55. The former placed the convention on record as supporting the National Council of Churches' policy

of holding its meetings only in communities where all facilities used by the convention, including hotels, dining, and other facilities, can be used on an unsegregated basis and directed the convention executives to "press unremittingly" for the achievement of this goal, including notification of this policy to all communities seeking the convention. This resolution, submitted by the Department of Social Welfare, was stated in affirmative terms and lays down a positive policy. However, some members of the convention felt that the resolution was not strong enough in that it does not make the policy fully operative immediately.

Resolution 55, submitted by the officers of the National Christian Missionary Convention, asked the convention to "reconsider" the 1952 decision to hold the 1954 convention in Miami, Florida, because of segregation in hotels of that city. The Committee on Recommendations recommended the adoption of Resolution 45 and recommended that Resolution 55 "be not adopted" because the purposes it sought to achieve were embodied in Resolution 45. After a somewhat heated debate the recommendation for adoption of Resolution 45 was adopted by a large majority. Resolution 55 came up for consideration on the following day. In the meantime conferences were held and promises made to seek the maximum possible non-segregated conditions at Miami, with the result that proponents of Resolution 55 agreed with the recommendation that it "be not adopted." This formula is somewhat different from a simple recommendation of disapproval in that it carries no implication of disapproval of the end sought. A subsequent resolution (No. 78) signed by a dozen or more individuals asked that "beginning in 1955 all International Conventions be held in cities where there are facilities in hotels and other places of meeting that are open to all participants without discrimination on account of race and color in matters of housing, hotel accommodations, room assignments and dining facilities." By mutual agreement this resolution was referred to a committee consisting of five signers and five members of the convention executive committee for study and report at Miami in 1954. Since 1936 the convention has operated under a policy requiring all facilities of the convention itself and all agencies reporting to it to operate without segregation.

Continued on P. 4

## IMPORTANT AND URGENT

A bill is before Congress that opens the way for private and parochial schools to receive billions of dollars in federal under-sea oil revenues as grants-in-aid. Senate Bill 1901, contains the Hill oil-for-education Amendment which would earmark federal oil income for "grants-in-aid of primary, secondary, and higher education." The important word PUBLIC is omitted before the word "education" in the Amendment.

To assure aid for public schools only, the wording should be "elementary, secondary and higher *public* education."

Millions of loyal Americans believe that public money should be used for public education only. Roman Catholic papers already are rejoicing that the word "public" is missing from the wording of the amendment. They hope its omission will open the way for billions in aid to their parochial schools. In the Senate debate, Hill went so far as to imply that Congress should appropriate funds directly to private schools, thus by-passing the states.

This information is being given because the time for action by groups and individuals is short. Contact your Senators and Representative in Washington without delay. They should be asked to vote to insert the word PUBLIC before "education" in the Hill oil-for-education Amendment to Senate Bill 1901; also House Bill 5134. Wires or air mail should be used for quick contact.

This battle for public education can be won at the grass roots, by citizens and groups who believe in "PUBLIC funds for PUBLIC schools only."

J.A.C.

## LODGE ON THE U.N.

Ambassador Lodge, in answering critics of the United Nations said, "It is not a nest of Communist spies, for the simple reason that there is nothing to spy on in the United Nations. The Russians haven't even filled their quota of employees at the United Nations. No United States citizen employed by the United Nations has ever been prosecuted for espionage." One wonders if Mr. Lodge, in making this statement as reported in the State Department Foreign Policy Briefs, is protected from the several Congressional investigating committees.

NEWS BRIEFS, Council for Christian Social Progress, American Baptist Convention.

## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

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*The opinions and points of view expressed in this publication are those of the editors and do not necessarily represent The United Christian Missionary Society.*

## SANITY NEEDED IN LOYALTY INVESTIGATIONS

After nearly twenty years of loyalty investigations by Congressional committees, often characterized by the excesses which have marked the House Un-American Activities Committees from the days of Martin Dies to Harold Velde, and more recently by the brassy personal ambitions of Joseph McCarthy, there is some evidence that an awakening public opinion may compel the admittance of some elements of sanity into their proceedings.

Among the heartening signs of sanity is the vigorous counter-attack of Bishop Oxnam and the exposure of the flimsy, not to say puerile, nature of much of the evidence in the so-called 'file' on the respected Methodist Bishop. When J. B. Matthews, former fundamentalist Methodist and fanatical investigator for Senator McCarthy, wrote his article, "Reds and Our Churches," for *American Mercury*, listing scores of Bishops and prominent ministers and churchmen as "party members, fellow-travelers, espionage agents, party-line adherents, and unwitting dupes" (thus giving himself plenty of scope for accusations!). President Eisenhower stepped in and Matthews was fired from his job, still protesting that during seventeen years the "Communist Party has enlisted the support of at least seven thousand Protestant clergymen." (Incidentally, we propose to deal with the Matthews article in a later issue of this publication.) It is heartening that President Eisenhower has finally decided that McCarthy and his hired minions are going too far. The fact that three Democratic members of McCarthy's committee have resigned in protest of his one man rule also indicates that sanity may be re-asserting itself.

One of the sanest proposals we have seen is that made by Arthur Hays Sulzberger, president and publisher of *The New York Times*, in an address to the graduating class of John Carroll University of Cleveland, Ohio, on June 15, 1953, on the occasion of receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Literature from the University.

In his address Mr. Sulzberger pro-

Continued on P. 4

## WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

→*Without Violence:* Quietly Washington took a giant step towards becoming a "Yankee-town" as the Supreme Court ended racial segregation in the Capital's restaurants and cafes. A few days after the Court's ruling an occasional Negro could be seen eating in a downtown restaurant as his business brought him to that section of the city. There was no violence, no mass protest, and no noticeable loss of business. Businessmen and customers took the attitude that "this is the law." This ostensibly local transformation was world-wide in its implications because for the first time in the 20th century non-whites could receive equal service without embarrassment. For the thousands of foreign diplomats, their staffs, students and visitors, it relieved to some extent the paradox which frustrated the message of the leading democracy of the world. To Washingtonians, it made furtive phone calls to clear the way for colored guests a thing of the past.

→*Lost Laws:* The end to segregation in Washington's restaurants and cafes came when the high court upheld the so-called "lost laws of 1873" which prohibited discrimination. These laws were passed when the city still had home rule, and when its citizens were permitted to vote like other qualified citizens. While voting privileges are still a thing of the future in the Capitol, the Court held that the laws of 1873 had never been repealed and were still in effect. The case involved in the anti-segregation decision was that of the District of Columbia vs. John R. Thompson Co., Inc. The restaurant is only a few blocks from the White House. Nearly three years ago Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, 89-year-old Negro educator and crusader for equality, and three of her friends sought service there and were denied. Then began the long court battle. Both Democratic and Republican Attorneys General supported the petition of the Negroes as did dozens of private organizations. The victory was a wholesome step forward, but only a step since large sections of the Capitol's life still follow the segregated pattern.

→*Public Schools:* On the same day that the Supreme Court put an end to this type of segregation in Washington life it postponed a decision on cases involving separate schools for white and Negro children. The Court asked lawyers for and against segregation in public schools in several states and the District of Columbia, to present arguments next October on five questions which puzzled the jurists. This would seem to indicate that no decision can be expected before the spring of 1954. In summary, the Court's questions are: Did the Congress which voted for the 14th Amendment to the Constitution contemplate that it would abolish

segregation? If not, what was the view of the Congress and the States at that time on whether Congress or the courts could abolish it? Is it within the judicial power to abolish school segregation? Should the Court decree geographical limits and can it permit a gradual adjustment? Should the Court formulate detailed decrees?

→*Guessing:* Some observers thought they could read the Court's mind in the five questions. But long experience has indicated that attempting to forecast a Supreme Court decision on the basis of questions asked by the judges is futile.

→*The Administration:* Meanwhile, there are signs that President Eisenhower is carefully surveying the legal aspects of segregation to determine what, if any, further steps may be taken at the present time. Soon after Mr. Eisenhower took office a representative of a prominent church group, who asked that his mission not be disclosed, visited with the President and discussed many aspects of segregation. He received assurances that every possible step would be taken to end second-class citizenship. Just what can be done without further legislation from an unfriendly Congress is the problem that perplexed the Democratic Administration for many years, and raises many questions for Republican leaders. They too must deal with Congress and in the past the coalition of Northern Republicans and Southern Democrats have formed a firm bulwark against liberal racial laws. Some legislative moves, nevertheless, seem likely to be attempted in the second session of the 83rd Congress which meets January 2, 1954.

→*Legislative Mill:* Congress seems certain to shelve until next year revision of the Taft-Hartley Act; Social Security Act revision; all civil rights legislation; statehood for Alaska (and, possibly, for Hawaii); and the Bricker treaty limitation resolution. Accomplishments for the session are: the big appropriation bills to keep the Government running, most of them slashed but not nearly far enough to balance the budget; the watered down Reciprocal Trade Act; establishment of a Department of Health, Education and Welfare; passage to the Tidelands Oil legislation giving up the federal claims on the rich offshore lands to the states. Also, further legislation is scheduled for next year which will turn large sections of the nation's public lands over to private interests and the states. Together with Tidelands Oil legislation these efforts mark the first major retreat on conservation measures since President Theodore Roosevelt championed the conservation of the nation's natural resources.

## ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

*Anybody Wanna Buy A Rope?* The Joe Penner made his reputation comedian by use of a 'tag' line—"Anybody wanna buy a duck?" The Department threatens to become former's logical successor with a simile. It seems that during World War II some Navy 'brass' purchased 10 miles—yes, miles—of rope. This, said to be of inferior quality, was recently discovered stashed away in a safehouse. Somebody was evidently afraid the Navy might run out of rope! "Anybody wanna buy a rope?"

Welcome to Christian Social Welfare Associates! The meeting of the Church Conference of Social Work in connection with the National Conference on Social Work at Cleveland, Ohio in May marks the consummation of the merger of Church Conference of Social Work and the Association of Church Social Workers to form the Christian Social Welfare Associates. The Church Conference of Social Work was formed at Kansas City in 1934; the Association of Church Social Workers, a professional organization, sometime later. The merger brings together the professionals and the wider Church Conference of Social Work to form an advisory body to the Department of Social Welfare of the National Council of Churches. The chairman of Christian Social Welfare Association is Canon R. Pepper, head of the department of social education and action of the Episcopal Church.

**Indian Legislation Needs Watch-** A bill (H.R. 89) introduced by Rep. Harris Ellsworth (R.Ore.) and adopted on March 25, 1953 should be watched carefully for its possible effect on the rights of American Indians. Rep. Ellsworth's bill authorizes an investigation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and to (1) list all tribes which are now qualified to handle their own affairs; (2) propose legislation to end federal restrictions and controls over those tribes; (3) list states in which federal control can be terminated and functions transferred to the states or other government agencies, and (4) recommend legislation to grant competency status to Indians now classified as incompetent. As worthy as these proposals may appear on the surface, citizens should be aware that termination of federal control over Indian affairs can do far more than the things enumerated. It opens the way for white men to further invade the Indian reservations and purchase land for less than its true value. It can void the treaties under which some tribes enjoy rights and emoluments granted in return for surrender of huge areas of lands. It can mean the end of federal Indian schools and health programs. In fact, bills have been introduced to place all Indian hospitals under the federal health service.

J.A.C.

## THE DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP AT PORTLAND

The Disciples Peace Fellowship's after-session meetings at the International Convention at Portland were of unusual significance. Sessions held in the Multnomah Hotel at 9:45 p. m. on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings were of unusual interest, especially the Monday evening session when Mrs. Rosa Page Welch spoke on "The Conflict of Race, Color and Culture Around the World as I saw It." Some 400 people jammed the Grand Ball room and remained with her till the end. Sunday evening's discussion led by Warner Muir, James A. Lollis and Barton Hunter on how to maintain Christian integrity in a world of tensions brought 50 or more people and resulted in many searching questions from the floor. On Tuesday evening Dr. Lin D. Cartwright, Dr. Paul J. Raver and James A. Crain led the discussion on "Freedom to Know, to Think and to Speak." Dr. Raver's address will be published in a subsequent issue of this News-Letter.

At the annual dinner and business meeting held at the YMCA dining room on Monday at 5:30 p. m., reports were received and officers for the ensuing year elected as follows:

**President:** T. W. Simer, Aberdeen, S. D.

**Vice President:** Louis Chamberlain, Palestine, Illinois.

**Executive Secretary-Treasurer:** Barton Hunter, Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Executive Committee:** the officers and Charles E. Dietze, North Middletown, Kentucky; H. C. Gemmer, Walter W. Sikes, and Miss Rose Wright, all of Indianapolis, Indiana.

A new departure was the establishment of a National Sponsors Committee consisting of the following persons:

Mrs. Carnella Barnes, Los Angeles, Calif.

H. C. Gemmer, Indianapolis, Ind. James A. Crain, Indianapolis, Ind. Charles E. Dietze, North Middletown, Ky.

Dan B. Genung, Los Angeles, Calif.

Barton Hunter, Indianapolis, Ind.

J. B. Hunter, Lynchburg, Va.

Corl A. Leach, Columbia, Mo.

James A. Lollis, Danville, Ky.

John Long, Edwards, Miss.

Harold L. Lunger, Tucson, Arizona

Charles L. McCalmon, Denio, Nev.

Robert Moffett, Alliance, Ohio

Warner Muir, Des Moines, Iowa

Roud Shaw, Pleasureville, Ky.

Walter W. Sikes, Indianapolis, Ind.

Chester A. Sillars, Danbury, Conn.

Roland R. Slater, Peoria, Ill.

Helen F. Spaulding, Chicago, Ill.

Allen B. Stanger, Lynchburg, Va.

Rhodes Thompson, Lexington, Ky.

Mae Yoho Ward, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mrs. Rosa Page Welch, Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. James D. Wyker, Columbia,

Mo.

A happy feature of the annual meet-

## THE WORLD'S HUNGRY MILLIONS

Food from America's farms to the world's hungry is the working slogan of CROP, the rural relief program of Church World Service. To meet minimum basic needs requested by the World Council of Churches for more than 5,000 tons of staple food such as wheat, beans, flour, rice; cotton and other staples, Church World Service has called on CROP contributions to provide in 1953.

Church World Service representatives, cooperating with mission groups in India, Korea, Palestine, Pakistan, Okinawa and Hongkong, will distribute the food to refugees, people in drought-ridden districts, underprivileged children and inmates of orphanages. Church channels will handle distribution in Europe.

This year, as in the past five years, thousands of volunteers will donate their time to canvass for food from farm to farm. CROP appeals to farm folk to set aside their commodity gifts is an effort to help relieve the pangs of hunger gnawing away at half the world's population—one of every two persons faces hunger as their normal lot in life.

R.E.M.

### FIRST CALL FOR U. N. SEMINAR

**Ministers - Laymen - Laywomen - Students!**

♦ The U. N. Seminar on World Order will be held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, November 30 through December 3, 1953.

♦ Inquiries should be directed to Barton Hunter, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana. Consideration for seminar places will be given on the basis of postmarked dates of inquiries.—More data next News-Letter.

ing was the presentation of a check for \$100 to James A. Crain, who was retired at his own request from the post of executive secretary-treasurer. Mr. Crain was one of the organizers of the Disciples Peace Fellowship at the San Antonio convention in 1935 and has been active in its affairs throughout the ensuing years, serving most of the time as its executive secretary and treasurer. The presentation came as a complete surprise to him, so much so that he found it difficult to express his emotions over the thoughtfulness of his friends.

Among other actions taken was the voting of appropriations to the Church Peace Mission and to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, a service agency of the churches in relation to draftees who for religious reasons cannot serve in the armed forces. Under the direction of the new officers and with the support of the National Sponsors' Committee the Disciples Peace Fellowship expects to develop a period of increasing usefulness.

J.A.C.

**SANITY NEEDED**

Continued from P. 2

posed that in order to "get away from the destructive and dangerously distracting talk about which band leader and which movie actress belonged to what organization ten or fifteen years ago" and to counteract "a growing tendency to equate nonconformity with treason, unorthodoxy with disloyalty," an arbitrary date be selected, perhaps the beginning of the Berlin Air Lift in 1948, by which time post-war Communism had plainly shown its intentions, and "declare the equivalent of a moratorium or some sort of political amnesty." "Anyone who joined a Communist front organization thereafter must accept whatever consequences might befall him as a result of that association. On the other hand, he who joined such an organization prior to that date should not be regarded as necessarily and automatically having a black mark on his record, provided he has clearly disassociated himself from any such group before that date."

Mr. Sulzberger would exempt from this ruling all persons being considered for sensitive positions. He would further take into account the matter of judgment. If, for example, a man was oblivious to the danger of Fascism in the 'thirties,' also oblivious to the danger of Communism in the 'forties,' his judgment would be open to serious question. Others who joined the Communist Party in the 'thirties' under the idealism of youth or the disillusionment of the Great Depression or the fervor of war days when Russia was an ally and Stalin was a "good old Joe," and could show that they had dropped their Party allegiance, would be automatically be amnestied.

There is no denying the fact that during the 'thirties' and throughout World War II a great many persons of doubtful loyalty entered the service of the U. S. government, some of them achieving high positions where they came into possession of highly secret information. The job of ferreting out such individuals and exposing them was not only legitimate but highly imperative. It early became apparent that investigating the loyalty of one's fellow American could be made to pay off handsomely in publicity. What better opportunity for an obscure member of Congress to get his 'name in the papers' than to get on some sort of loyalty investigating committee? Rep. Velde, from a down-state Illinois district, deliberately sought appointment to the House Un-American Activities Committee and has made the most of it. How can a Senator whose reputation back home is not too good more effectively turn public attention away from his mediocrity and possible malfeasance than to dish out a daily portion of accusation against citizens who have no commensurate means of answering such attacks?

J.A.C.

**PORLAND IN RETROSPECT**

Continued from P. 1

gation or discrimination, including all meal functions, conferences, and the like. Resolution 45 states a policy of complete non-segregation, but permitting convention authorities some leeway of discretion while "pressing unremittingly" for a completely unsegregated convention.

Many delegates expressed the opinion that the discussion on these resolutions was all to the good. Misunderstandings of what the convention's past policy has been were clarified and a new and stronger policy was adopted. Resolution No. 78, demanding the end of all segregation in convention arrangements beginning with the 1955 convention assembly guarantees that the issue will not be allowed to die.

**Recommendations Committee**

No discussion of the Portland Convention would be complete that did not recognize the constructive work of the Committee on Recommendations under the chairmanship of Ben C. Bobbitt. Both the committee and its subcommittees approached their tasks in a constructive attitude, with a minimum of carping, critical debate. Matters of business were approached in a friendly, affirmative way that contributed materially to the dispatch of business. The Committee on Recommendations is gradually achieving the status of the "upper House" of a religious body whose tradition does not as yet permit a delegate convention and whose annual assemblies are sometimes heavily "loaded" with attendants from the vicinity of the convention city.

(Space does not permit discussion of some other important actions. These will be discussed in succeeding News-Letters.)

J.A.C.

**COMMITTEES, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL ACTION**

In the long run the job of Christian social action is accomplished at the level of the local church. Brotherhood agencies may help. The National Council of Churches may speak through its departments in the Division of Christian Life and Work. The world Council of Churches may conduct conferences and issue statements. But in the long run local churches do the job or it doesn't get done.

Individuals gain their social outlook in the local church. Communities are influenced by local churches. Brotherhood and ecumenical agencies are supported both financially and in terms of representation by local churches.

Herein lies the importance of the local church committee on Christian action and community service, or whatever it may be called in a given local church. It is through such a committee that the local church gets down to work.

As a confession of faith is to the beginning of one's Christian life, so is

**LEARNING BY SERVING  
IN JAMAICA**

June 17 seventeen Disciples of Christ young people from the United States debarked from their plane at Kingston, Jamaica. Seven Jamaican young people joined them. These with their directors, Mr. and Mrs. Lytt Noel of St. Petersburg, Florida, the 1953 Jamaican Work Camp of the Disciples of Christ.

From Jamaica came: Vivian Reed, Richmond Nelson, Israel Reed, Mike Rennalls, Veronica Lobban, Avis Davis, Daphne Bassett.

From the United States came an interracial group including: Harold S. Butler, Ardmore, Okla.; Mary Lyle Childs, Norman, Okla.; Mary Alice Clay, Austin, Texas; Elva Mae Deer, Little Rock, Ark.; Lucy Ann Hass, Indianapolis, Ind.; Glenn Hayes, Manhattan, Kans.; Donald L. Lanier, Shellyville, Ill.; Estelle L. Miller, Hartford, Conn.; Winifred Perpener, Ft. Worth, Texas; Robert L. Regenold, Eureka, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Huff Murray, Ky.; Joan Schneider, Topeka, Kan.; Mildred Sirs, and Charles Smith, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Edmund White, Bloomington, Ind.

Together these young people embarked upon a six weeks' period of work, worship, study and recreation. The work project was that of rebuilding some of our mission churches damaged in the hurricane a few months ago. While in Jamaica deputation teams from the work camp visited all our Disciple churches bringing greetings to them from our brotherhood on the mainland. They also engaged in extensive observation and discussion projects designed to acquaint them with Jamaica's economic, political, social and religious situations.

B.H.

the appointment of a committee on Christian action and community service to the job of social education and action in the life of the local church.

It is not that the church cannot work in the field of Christian social education and action without a committee appointed for the task—it is simply that the church usually doesn't! Everybody's business is nobody's business. But when a committee has been specifically appointed for a task in the church's life things tend to begin to happen.

All this is preliminary to saying "If your church hasn't appointed such a committee why not do so now? And if it already has such a committee why don't you mail a card to the Department of Social Welfare telling us the name and address of the chairman so that we can keep him and his committee informed of what is happening at the national and international levels and so that we can learn what is happening at the local levels?"

B.H.